

## **State Superintendent Evers 2015-17 Biennial Budget-School Finance Summary**

### **Overall General and Categorical School Aids and State Support for K-12 Education**

- Increase general and categorical school aids by \$613 million over the biennium (increases of 2.6% in 2015-16 and an additional 4.6% in 2016-17).
- Increase state support from 62.4% to 62.7% in 2015-16 and 63.7% in 2016-17 and create a pathway to restoring the state's former two-thirds funding commitment.

### **Revenue Limits**

- Increase the annual revenue limit adjustment to \$200 per pupil in 2015-16 and \$204 per pupil in 2016-17 (current law is \$0 per pupil in 2015-16 and thereafter). These figures represent a roughly 2% annual increase in revenues for the average school district and are consistent with CPI.
- Increase the low revenue ceiling from \$9,100 per pupil to \$9,400 in 2015-16 and \$9,700 in 2016-17, which would allow 40-60 districts to narrow the gap in resources with higher spending districts.

### **General Equalization School Aids/Fair Funding Plan**

- Increase general school aids by \$453 million over the biennium (increases of 2.5% in 2015-16 and an additional 4.9% in 2016-17) to implement the Fair Funding Plan and provide property tax relief.
- Fair Funding--Make the following changes to the state general school aid formula in 2016-17:
  - Guarantee a minimum level of state funding for every student (\$3,000)
  - Incorporate a poverty factor in general aid formula (30%) to account for families' ability to pay
  - Protect taxpayers by ensuring no district could lose more than 10% of its state aid in any year
  - Transfer School Levy/First Dollar Tax Credits & High Poverty Aid into general aid formula
  - Make other changes to protect rural, declining enrollment and negatively aided districts
  - Include a hold-harmless provision to ensure all districts receive the same amount of state support under Fair Funding as they would otherwise receive under current law

### **Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP)**

- Reestimate sum sufficient funding by \$44.8 million over the biennium (increases of 7.7% in 2015-16 and an additional 7.5% in 2016-17) due to: (1) estimated increases of 1,000 students annually; (2) the increased per pupil payment, which is tied to the revenue limit per pupil adjustment plus the change in the amount of the statewide categorical aid per pupil between the previous and current year; and (3) increasing the state's share of the MPCP from 71.2% to 100% in 2016-17.

### **Racine Parental Choice Program (RPCP)**

- Reestimate sum sufficient funding by \$8.6 million over the biennium (increases of 13.8% in 2015-16 and an additional 27.3% in 2016-17) due to: (1) estimated increases of 500 students annually; and (2) the increased per pupil payment, which is tied to the revenue limit per pupil adjustment plus the change in the amount of the statewide categorical aid per pupil between the previous and current year.

### **Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)**

- Reestimate sum sufficient funding by \$910,000 over the biennium (increases of 4.3% in 2015-16 and an additional 3.7% in 2016-17) due to the increased per pupil payment, which is tied to the revenue limit per pupil adjustment plus the change in the amount of the statewide categorical aid per pupil between the previous and current year.



## Independent Charter Schools Program (ICSP)

- Reestimate sum sufficient funding by \$16.3 million over the biennium (increases of 6.7% in 2015-16 and an additional 9.1% in 2016-17) due to: (1) estimated increases of 500 students annually; and (2) the increased per pupil payment, which is tied to the increase in the revenue limit per pupil adjustment plus the change in the amount of statewide categorical aid per pupil between the previous and current year.

## Categorical School Aids

- Increase by \$160 million over the biennium (6.4% in 2015-16 and an additional 8.1% in 2016-17)
- Recommendations for the following existing categorical aid programs:
  - Special Education-request \$85.8 million to increase state reimbursement for children with disabilities from 26% to 28% in 2015-16 and 30% in 2016-17
  - Special Education (High Cost)-request \$14.4 million to increase state reimbursement for children with disabilities from 45% to full reimbursement in 2015-16 and 2016-17
  - Bilingual-Bicultural Aid-request \$8.2 million to increase state reimbursement from 8% in 2014-15 to 12% in 2015-16 and 2016-17 for the roughly 60 districts required to have a program
  - SAGE-request \$11.2 million to fully-fund program at \$2,250 per eligible student in 2016-17
  - Sparsity-request \$8.4 million to fully-fund program for 130+ districts in 2015-16 and 2016-17
  - Transportation Aid-request \$250,000 to make independent charter schools eligible for aid in both years and increase over 12 mile reimbursement rate by \$25 per pupil (9% increase)
  - High Cost Transportation-request \$5 million to increase reimbursement rate from 33% to 50%
  - School Breakfast-request \$935,000 to maintain reimbursement for public and private schools at 9 cents per breakfast in 2015-16 and 2016-17
  - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)-request \$500,000 to continue to provide grants to districts to support STEM projects
  - Gifted and Talented Grants-request \$1.5 million to further support grants for gifted and talented students throughout the state and make all school districts eligible to receive them
  - Open Enrollment Transportation-request \$3.1 million to fully-fund transportation costs of economically disadvantaged students participating in the open enrollment program
  - Tribal Language Revitalization Grants-request \$400,000 in 2016-17 to initiate a young learners initiative to improve academic and achievement gaps for Native American students
  - School Library Aids-increase funding by \$6 million to reflect a reestimate of interest earnings
- Recommendations for new categorical aid programs (all in 2016-17):
  - Supplemental Bilingual-Bicultural Education-request \$2.3 million to provide \$100 per student to all districts with English-Language Learners, not just those required to have a program
  - School Safety Grants-request \$2 million to provide grants to districts to for safety purposes
  - Electronic Publications Grants-request \$1 million for matching grants to school districts for electronic publications, including digital content and software
  - Career Pathways-request \$4 million for students to learn occupational skills to succeed in their careers in the workplace
  - Better Bottom Line-Transitions-request \$5.8 million to provide districts with incentive payments to provide services to students with disabilities to improve their post secondary outcomes
  - Better Bottom Line-Job Development Support-request \$1.5 million by investing in programs that assist in integrating students with disabilities into the workforce and/or higher education